

U.S., USSR agree to press for Mideast Geneva talks

GENEVA, May 19 (R). — The United States and the Soviet Union today agreed to press forward with plans to reconvene a Middle East peace conference this autumn, despite a rightwing victory in Tuesday's Israeli general election, a U.S. spokesman said. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reached a consensus on this during a 105-minute meeting here devoted to the Middle East situation, the spokesman said.

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3 Arab leaders hold mini-summit in Riyadh for talks on Mideast

RIYADH, May 19 (R). — President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, Syrian President Hafez Assad and King Khaled of Saudi Arabia met here tonight for two hours of talks on the Middle East.

Informal sources said the talks were believed to focus on a concerted Arab attitude to resumption of the Geneva peace conference.

Tonight's meeting of the

After Likud victory

Waldheim expects Geneva M.E. talks to be delayed

GENEVA, May 19 (R). — U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today he expected that the election victory of the rightwing Likud Party in Israel's general election would delay the reconvening of the Middle East peace conference, possibly beyond the end of this year.

If nothing happened this year, "the situation will deteriorate dramatically and I would not exclude in such a case another military confrontation," the United Nations chief told a press conference in Geneva on the scene of Soviet-American talks on the Middle East.

American officials were said privately to be shocked by Mr. Waldheim's comments.

One U.S. official said Washington planned to continue high-level consultations with Middle East leaders regardless of Israel's shift to the right in Tuesday's election.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko con-

ferred here today on how to reach a Middle East peace settlement. Their countries are co-chairmen of the Geneva peace talks, which the U.S. wants to reconvene later this year after a four-year interruption.

Mr. Waldheim told his press conference: "Certainly the new situation (in Israel) will not facilitate the negotiating process."

"Many of the talks which have taken place in the past will have to be renewed with the new authorities..."

"I don't think we expect an early convening of the (Geneva) conference, maybe before the end of this year. But even this is questionable in the light of latest developments."

A U.S. spokesman declined to comment on Mr. Waldheim's gloomy assessment of the situation.

But he said that when pressed, Mr. Waldheim "made it clear he was speaking for himself and not Vance or Gromyko."

Mr. Waldheim met the two ministers separately today.

er two of the main states confronting Israel -- Egypt and Syria -- and the main supporting state Saudi Arabia.

President Sadat met Mr. Carter in Washington last month while President Assad had talks with the American leader in Geneva last week.

Prince Fahd told reporters here today that President Carter had shown "significant and constructive" interest in the Arab cause at the start of his administration.

Official sources said the three leaders would continue their talks later tonight following a dinner King Khaled is giving for Mr. Sadat and Mr. Assad.

In Kuwait, Kuwait's newspapers today gave prominence to the Arab mini-summit.

The daily newspaper As-Siyasah said the summit was expected to discuss "the circumstances of a fifth (Arab-Israeli) war which has become almost certain" following the victory of the rightwing Likud in Israel's general elections.

It quoted diplomatic sources as saying that the arrival of President Assad in Riyadh yesterday -- a day before the summit was due to open -- entailed a belief that the situation on the "confrontation lines" with Israel would soon deteriorate.

Another newspaper Al Rai Al Aam hoped that the summit would draw up a clear cut strategy and a coordinated policy "in this critical stage through which the Arab nation is passing."

Al Rai Al Aam said the Carter-Fahd meeting would be politically of important dimensions.

The refusal by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to raise the oil prices more than five per cent was used as a means to give Washington time to achieve a solution for the Middle East problem, the newspaper said.

Junblatt, Khaddam hold talks on progress of peace in Lebanon

DAMASCUS, May 19 (Agencies). — New Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt today met Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam here.

Mr. Junblatt's visit, his first to Damascus, followed an invitation from President Hafez Assad.

The PSP leader, who succeeded his father after his March 16 assassination, said he had come here mainly "to thank President Assad for his condolences after the death of my father."

He added also that he would examine developments in the Lebanese situation on a local and Arab level with Syrian leaders.

Baath Party Regional Commander, Abdallah Annar, welcoming Mr. Junblatt, said the aim of the visit was to reinforce the process of peace and security in Lebanon.

The PSP delegation will return to Beirut tomorrow after meeting President Assad when he returns from a Saudi-Syrian-Egyptian summit in Riyadh.

In Beirut, Saudi Arabia's delegate to the four-sided Arab committee responsible for overseeing the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, Ali Al Sha'i said today that the committee will meet soon in Cairo.

Well-informed sources said the committee -- made up of representatives from Kuwait, Egypt and Syria in addition to Saudi Arabia -- would meet on Saturday.

It would be the first meeting since the Arab League council renewed, in March, the committee's mandate for two months beyond the scheduled date of expiration, May 26.

Announcing the Cairo conclusion after talks with Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, Mr. Al Sha'i hinted that it could signal a breakthrough in relations with the Palestinian resistance.

"Thanks to the good intentions expressed by all parties, matters are moving toward an overall solution," he said.

Mr. Al Sha'i, who is also Saudi Arabia's ambassador here, met on Wednesday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, fueling speculation that an agreement on Palestinian forces had been worked out.

A revision of the 1969 Cairo agreement which governs the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon recently drew criticism from the resistance on the grounds that it was too severe.

Mr. Waldheim made the statement after conferring for two hours with Mr. Vance.



His Majesty King Hussein welcomes Sultan Qabus of Oman upon his arrival at Amman airport Thursday. (JNA photo).

Qabus arrives here for private visit

AMMAN (JNA). — Sultan Qabus Ibn Said of Oman arrived here Thursday on a short private visit.

The sultan, greeted with a 21-gun salute, was welcomed by His Majesty King Hussein on arrival.

His Highness Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf and

other top officials were also at the airport to greet the Omani ruler.

A guard of honour saluted and the two national anthems played as King Hussein and Sultan Qabus mounted the dais at the airport.

After a short rest at the royal lounge, the King and the sultan drove to the Hashimiyeh Palace.

Begin stops short of proposing annexation of West Bank to Israel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (Agencies)

— Mr. Menachem Begin, leader of Israel's rightwing Likud Party, which emerged as the country's biggest party in Tuesday's elections, today promised to establish new Jewish settlements in occupied areas and offered protection and Israeli citizenship for West Bank Arabs who wanted them.

At his first public appearance since his election triumph, Mr. Begin said at Kafr Qaddum near Nablus, the largest town on the West Bank: "We do not want to deprive a single one of them (the Arabs) of his land."

In this wonderful country, there is room for the Arabs on their soil and for Jews who will come to make the homeland fruitful."

The Kafr Qaddum settlement was established over a year ago by extremist Jews in defiance of the Labour government then in power. Mr. Begin assured them that further Jewish encroachment would be allowed under his rule.

At the same time, Arabs would be allowed to choose whether to remain Jordanian nationals or become Israelis, he said.

Radio Israel, in its Arabic broadcast, today quoted Mr. Begin as saying in an interview with America's NBC television that the West Bank was not negotiable and ought to have the same status as Tel Aviv or Haifa.

Mr. Begin was also quoted as saying that this would not amount to annexation as it was part of Israel originally.

Israel's Labour Party, ousted in the general elections this week after 29 years in power, today refused to join a coalition government led by the Likud Party.

Acting Premier Shimon Peres told a meeting of Labour leaders that the party had "very real differences" with the Likud.

"These differences are over the (occupied Arab) territories, over negotiations with the Arabs and over relations with Washington," Mr. Peres said.

Labour was invited to join a coalition by Mr. Begin, who is due to meet Mr. Peres tomorrow for talks on foreign and defence policy.

But, at variance with Mr. Begin's statements, a leading member of the party said it wanted peace talks with the country's Arab neighbours on a Middle East settlement.

Mr. Zalman Shoval indicated the Likud, which has traditionally taken a hard line on relations with the Arabs, would be ready to discuss the future of the West Bank, occupied by Israel since the 1967 war.

While Mr. Begin, who is almost certain to become prime minister, sought coalition partners among other parties, Mr. Shoval alleged: "The Likud has always clearly said that we favoured peace negotiations without any pre-set conditions."

He claimed: "When we meet with Arab leaders at the conference table, we will be ready to discuss all possible subjects."

The party, which emerged as a surprise victor in the general

elections, is likely to have as many as 42 seats in the new parliament when elections returns are completed.

The ousted Labour Party, which ruled Israel since its inception in 1948, is expected to have only 32 or 33 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

Mr. Begin, a one-time Israeli underground guerrilla chief, has said the Likud is prepared for "territorial negotiations" with Jordan, Egypt and Syria.

Government officials had earlier said privately that Israel's dependence on the United States would also force a more conciliatory attitude on Mr. Begin.

In his attempts to build a coalition, Mr. Begin's party has been in contact with the newly-founded Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) which is expected to end up with 14 or 15 seats. The DMC's foreign policy is virtually identical to that of the Labour Party.

Differences between the Likud and the DMC over future cooperation were said to focus on constitutional issues rather than foreign policy.

The DMC is seeking an overhaul of electoral law and fresh elections in two years.

The Likud has told civil servants that only obviously political appointees among their ranks risked losing their jobs. One likely to go was Foreign Ministry Director General Shlomo Avineri.

Mr. Peres reassured Labour leaders that "Israel's place in the world has not changed because of the vote."

"But I doubt whether our election results will be particularly helpful in helping to solve Israel's differences with the United States," he added.

Mr. Peres said the majority of voters who deserted the Labour Party had cast their ballots for the DMC though some had contributed to give Likud an additional seat or two.

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Bhutto presents new proposals to opposition

ISLAMABAD, May 19 (AFP).

— Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has presented new proposals to the opposition, a spokesman for the opposition Pakistani National Alliance (PNA) said here today.

The spokesman declined to discuss the precise content of the proposals but said they went beyond the organisation of new provincial elections which the prime minister had proposed during a first series of negotiations, broken off last Friday.

With a "day against tyranny" call for tomorrow, the Pakistani opposition earlier today turned its protests to the

legal and constitutional domains.

The PNA said that about 2,000 people demonstrated in the gardens of the high court of justice in Lahore today to protest against the seventh constitutional amendment adopted recently by parliament.

The amendment allows the holding of referendum by prime minister Bhutto and bans retroactively any protest in courtpower use of the army to maintain order.

Security forces cordoned off the high court district, cutting up barricades at all exits, but the demonstrators dispersed calmly and without incident.



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Israeli working class voted heavily for Likud

TEL AVIV, May 19 (AFP). — The upset victory of the right in the Israeli parliamentary election was largely due to a massive protest vote from workers, an analysis of the voting showed today.

Analysis of balloting showed that the middle classes voted for Labour, while intellectuals and the wealthy cast ballots in general for the new Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) set up by Mr. Yigal Yadin, the archaeologist who transcribed the Dead Sea scrolls.

Prof. Dan Horowitz, one of the most incisive observers of the Israeli political scene, said the surprise in the election on Tuesday resulted above all from "protest voting."

In many countries, citizens protest against the administration by voting for the left he said. But in Israel, where the Labour Party has reigned since the country was founded in 1948, people could only pro-

test by voting for the rightwing.

The heaviest vote for the rightwing "Likud" coalition came from working class neighbourhoods, and from new towns inhabited mainly by Jewish immigrants from Arab countries.

In kibbutzim and cooperative villages with a higher standard of living, Labour's traditionally strong position was battered by the DMC.

In affluent neighbourhoods of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, most votes were divided among the DMC, the Civil Rights ticket and the Sheli Party, which advocates returning all occupied territories to the Arabs and setting up a Palestinian state.

But Sheli failed to win the support of Israeli Arabs. About half of them voted for the pro-Moscow "Rakah" communist Party... the rest of the Arab vote was split among the various Israeli parties and candidates for Arab clans.

Soviet-American SALT talks appear to have made some progress

GENEVA, May 19 (AFP). — Soviet-American negotiations on limitation of the spread of strategic nuclear weapons appear to have made progress after a morning of hard bargaining between United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Describing talks this morning, American spokesman Rodding Carter said: "Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko had 'intensive discussions' on Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and that they had agreed on a 'pause for reflection' in this topic by switching their talks to Middle Eastern problems this afternoon."

They will resume the SALT talks on Friday, the American spokesman said. He stressed that it had been Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko who had done most of the talking this morning rather than their aides.

This would indicate that, after setting out the positions of each country during the first meeting yesterday at the United Nations in Geneva, they had now entered the negotiating phase of their talks.

The impression that the talks were making progress was reinforced by the fact that Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko had decided to interrupt their SALT negotiations until tomorrow. It would appear that the two sides are trying to strike a bargain in which each side is giving serious consideration to the other's proposals.

This would represent considerable progress vis-à-vis Mr. Vance's talks on arms limitations in Moscow in March, when Krenin leaders rejected the American proposals out of hand and were not even willing to discuss them.

Another positive sign was the American spokesman's statement that the talks were likely to continue until midday on Saturday instead of ending on Friday, as had been planned.

Observers likewise noted that the official Soviet TASS news

agency's account of yesterday's negotiations made no mention of the Vladivostok agreement between former President Gerald Ford and Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev.

This fixed the ceiling on strategic nuclear weapons (missiles or aircraft) at 2,400 for each of the superpowers in an eventual second SALT agreement.

The observers interpreted this as a sign that the Soviet Union was prepared to accept lower ceilings as President Jimmy Carter has proposed.

The first sign that Moscow was moving towards a reduction in the ceilings on vectors came last week from Boston Globe correspondent William Beecher, who quoted several high-ranking Soviet officials who specialise in arms limitation problems as saying that the Soviet Union might accept a cut of 10 per cent in the levels set at Vladivostok.

It is clear here that the SALT question will dominate the latest round of talks between Mr. Vance and Mr. Gromyko. The Middle East will be discussed at only one session, later today, and neither side intends to reopen the question after this meeting.

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The triumph of prejudice (I)

This is the first of a two part series on the results of the Israeli general elections.

THERE is a tendency to interpret the rightwing Likud bloc's upset victory over the Labour alignment in the Israeli general elections as a protest against "the establishment" which has mismanaged things so badly and a desire to give someone else a go at running the country.

That may be so, but the result of the elections indicates an ominous swing to the right, a victory of the street over the intellectuals, of the shortsighted over the men of vision. Likud did not convince people that it could succeed where Labour failed, it received a vote of confidence from those who had lost patience with a vacillating and hesitant leadership and decided it was time for strong action, giving free rein to their prejudices in the process.

According to a preliminary analysis of voting patterns in the general elections, the intellectuals, the wealthy and the cosmopolitan well-to-do voted for the Democratic Movement for Change and small left-wing groups, while the middle class voted for Labour.

Likud drew a good share of its support from working class neighbourhoods and new towns inhabited mainly by Jewish immigrants from Arab countries.

The first group is composed of the same sort of people who voted for former Alabama Governor George Wallace in the United States, ultra-nationalists with strong rightist tendencies and an unthinking loyalty to such values as "my country above all, right or wrong." In the United States these would be red-necks, hard-batters.

The working class can vote against Labour out of dissatisfaction, but a swing to such a strongly rightwing group indicates not just dissatisfaction but a coincidence of views, sympathy with the aims of the right. This is the working class that thinks it is better than the working class, that blames the country's economic ills on the very laws and institutions that are meant to serve it; such as social security and welfare; the complaint is not that we are buying guns instead of bread, not that we are not spending enough on health and education, or that social services are being mismanaged but hang social services, bring on the guns and munitions factories. The reaction is bulldozed -- there is no reason to believe that Likud's economic policies can pull the country out of its difficult economic straits; some people just go by blind instinct when they sense they are out of their depth, they become stubborn when they can reason no further.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

The result of the Israeli general election last Tuesday is the main topic in the editorials of all local newspapers.

AL RA'i says the "victory of Dr. Yassir Arafat, Menachem Begin, resulted in a surprise reaction in the Arab World, especially among those who lead the peace offensive. 'What must be immediately perceived is that well established Zionism which was able to create the state of Israel has the last and the only say in Israeli policy,' the paper says.

Mr. Begin and his predecessors, Mr. Rabin and Mrs. Golda Meir, all move within the already established course, the paper says. It adds that this must not be reacted against emotionally but by well calculated steps and strong nerves. Likud's victory gives more than one indicator for future years, the paper says. But all indicators say that the Arabs should be prepared to defend themselves against Zionism.

Under the title "Coups in Israel" Al Dustour says that the Likud victory gives the following indications: First, Israel has undergone an unusual, unconventional coup d'etat; second, this coup will have a negative effect on the peace moves in the Middle East; third, it has created a pessimistic reaction throughout the capitals of the world; fourth, that the rightist coup will deprive Israel of the traditional affection ended on it during the last 29 years by international socialists; fifth, fears that extreme rightists hold of power may entail subsequent extremist in the area; and sixth, an increased burden of responsibility rests on the United States.

AL SHAB' says that the Arabs should seriously consider military preparation to deal with a possible failure of the current peace efforts following the victory of the Likud.

"Such a possibility has grown with the advent of Menachem Begin to power," the paper added in its editorial.

In Damascus, the Syrian press warned today that the victory of the rightwing Likud in Israel's elections posed a threat to current peace efforts.

The daily paper Tashrin published its commentary on the election under the headline, "Likud-does it mean war?"

"If Israel's rulers try to resort to force and war in order to continue the occupation of the Arab lands and the denial of the Palestinian Arab people's rights, this poses a real threat to peace -- a threat which may at any moment explode the situation in the Middle East," it says.

The extent of this threat "depends on how much the rulers in Washington might have needed of Israeli intransigence or approval of it for no Israeli recourse to war can be independent of the will of Washington, in view of the extent of the American military, economic and political aid Israel receives," the newspaper added.

The daily Al Thawara, (revolution), says "the victory of the Likud of the terrorist Begin confirms the trend towards Israeli aggressiveness."

Likud's victory, the paper said, "will have a negative effect on international efforts towards a just peace in the region."

The Baath newspaper which speaks for the ruling party here says: "if it was true that the channel towards peace had started to flow in the region after recent international diplomatic efforts, then the channel towards war has also not left the region after the recent Israeli elections."

In Cairo, the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram says the victory of Likud should not affect the Arab momentum in pressing Israel to accept a just solution to the Middle East conflict.

"The Arab countries should be ready for all probabilities to deal with a new Israeli government," Al-Ahram says.

The paper then gives a lengthy report of the history of Likud's party leader former "guerrilla" Menachem Begin and described him as a terrorist.

A foreign ministry official source yesterday said Mr. Begin "would not dare to say he refuses to negotiate with Palestinian terrorists, being himself a former terrorist."

Are the Palestinians in occupied lands healthier than ever before?

By Susan Poyas

GAZA, May 19 (R). — Israel has published a report saying that Palestinians in its occupied territories are healthier than ever before.

But while the Palestinian doctors who work in the area agree with the overall premise, they attribute the improvement to time and other developments not directly related to the quality of Israeli medical care.

Dr. Khairi Abu Ramadhan, director of health services in the Gaza Strip, said better sanitation and improved living conditions in the past few years have sharply reduced many illnesses, especially gastro-intestinal diseases which he described as "the killing horror of our children."

Interviewed during a press tour of medical facilities in Gaza, he said the Israelis are doing what they can to meet the health needs of the Palestinians.

"But the question is," he added, "how do we compare with Haddassah and Tel Hashomer," referring to Israel's top hospitals.

Dr. Anton Shuhailbar, an ear, nose and throat specialist, said higher educational and living standards rather than better medical services were responsible for the improved health of the residents.

The Israeli report, compiled by the Health Ministry, was presented to a World Health

Organisation (WHO) meeting which opened in Geneva on May 2. The meeting is due to discuss health in the occupied territories later this month when Israeli experts to come under sharp Arab attack.

The report said medical services in the Gaza Strip and Sinai were more underdeveloped in 1967, when Israel seized the territories, than they were in the West Bank.

While in the West Bank emphasis has now been put on the expansion of speciality and hospital services, in the Gaza Strip most efforts have been placed on preventive health services to eradicate widespread malnutrition, rampant infectious diseases and very high infant mortality.

A string of 12 maternal and child care centres have been established which helped cut infant deaths from more than 160 per 1,000 before 1967 to 50 now, despite one of the highest birth rates in the world, the Israeli report said.

The figures showed that more than half of the population in the Gaza Strip was under 14 while only 2 per cent was aged 65 or more.

Vaccination of children, the cornerstone of the infectious disease control programme, together with improved sanitation and medical treatment, have virtually eradicated from the region dreaded diseases like malaria, trachoma, cholera and smallpox. Other infectious diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles and tuberculosis, have

been considerably reduced but still remain a problem.

Dr. Raghdia Al Shawwa, a paediatrician at the Al Nasser Children's Hospital said facilities were adequate for the local population, but that they needed more beds during the summer months when the hospital was usually packed with children suffering from stomach infections due to poor hygiene.

Dr. Al Shawwa said the number of hospital beds has more than doubled to 171 in the past 10 years and the number of doctors has jumped from 2 to 16.

But she complained that at least another 10 doctors were required.

Dr. Abu Ramadhan confirmed that a doctor shortage was one of the main problems facing the area. He said that 160 local Palestinian doctors cared for a population of 400,000 people and that at least another 100 were needed. Medical consultants from Israel visit the area and specially complicated cases are sent to Israeli hospitals. New departments in orthopaedics, gynaecology and nephrology have been opened in Gaza hospitals in recent years.

Dr. Abu Ramadhan said the Egyptians helped to alleviate the doctor shortage by enforcing an old Egyptian law that any Gazan studying medicine in Egypt must work for at least one year in the Gaza Strip. Some 50 doctors have returned home under this scheme during the past three years.

Dr. Abu Ramadhan said how-

ever that many of the doctors leave for the rich Gulf states which pay them much higher salaries.

Dr. Abu Ramadhan is even more concerned about the nursing situation. Nearly 70 per cent of the 500 nurses are males and they do not care for the female patients.

"Although there has been some progress, families think it is degrading for a girl to be a nurse," he said. In general, however, the number of nurses has more than doubled in the past 10 years.

Israeli officials say that the WHO meeting in Geneva, rather than discussing the health situation in the territories, will be "exploited" by the Arabs for a general attack on Israeli rule.

They recalled that during the last year's session the Arabs and a majority of Moslems and other countries declared inadmissible a report by a "committee of experts" because it gave a favourable report on the health conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied areas.

Lindbergh's famed flight to be re-enacted today on its 50th anniversary

LAKELAND, FLORIDA, May 19 (AFP). — A pilot here plans to cross the Atlantic tomorrow in a single-engine aircraft to imitate the first non-stop flight across the North Atlantic by Mr. Charles Lindbergh 50 years ago.

Mr. David Gray, 27, said he would take off from New York for Paris following the great circle route taken by Mr. Lindbergh past Cork, Ireland.

Mr. Gray, a man from the northeastern state of Massachusetts, flies small craft across the Atlantic city by stages to deliver them to European purchasers. This time he will deliver a Piper Cherokee to a firm in Belgium.

It can fly 250 kms. an hour compared with only 200 kms. for Mr. Lindbergh's Spirit of Saint Louis and can cruise at an altitude of 3,000 metres, more than twice as high as Mr. Lindbergh's craft.

Mr. Gray also will have the advantage of an automatic pilot device. He plans to make the flight in a mere 22.5 hours.

The two aircraft are as different as a 1977 Ford and an old-time Model T Ford, Mr. Gray said.

"I thought maybe when I'm old and gray I can tell my grand-children I did it, even though I know it'll be a lot easier and a lot less dangerous for me than it was for Lindbergh. That guy had real guts."

Mr. Gray plans to land at Le Bourget Airport like Mr. Lindbergh but will be unable to take off from exactly the same field, where a shopping centre has been built.

Why do people run the Marathon?

By Jan Henderson

LONDON, May 19 (R). — It is hardly a momentous historical fact that in 490 B.C. a man called Pheidippides ran from Marathon to Athens with news of the first Greek victory of the Persian wars.

It is surprising therefore that more than 2,000 years later his exertions are the source of a sporting boom.

Pheidippides dropped dead after telling of the Greek victory which may explain why Marathon running, a sporting memorial to his endeavour, did not immediately become a popular pastime. It has become so during recent years and today running long distances, particularly the Marathon, can no longer be dismissed as the aberration of a lunatic fringe.

There was such a congestion at the start of last month's Boston Marathon in the United States that the last few runners out of a field of more than 3,000 took five minutes to reach the starting line. The size of the field on this occasion was exceptional but it is a general trend that Marathon fields are getting larger and that the number of Marathon races is increasing.

One reason for the boom is that Marathon running is no longer restricted to men. Until quite recently it was a generally-held view, generally held by men that is, that to run 42.19 kms. -- the Marathon distance even though Marathon is only 27 kms. from Athens -- was neither becoming, nor advisable for the female athlete.

Since women have gained general acceptance in the sport, their performances have improved increasingly favourably with men's. This month, in San Sebastian, Spain, Miss Chantal Langlade of France set a fastest time for a woman of two hours, 35 minutes, 15 seconds. And in a large field dominated by men Miss Langlade finished 13th.

But women account for no more than a small proportion

of the rising number of Marathon runners and the reason for the sudden surge in popularity is not simply emancipation.

There can be no simple explanation why people want to take part in an event which has caused so much human suffering. One of the most harrowing incidents in Olympic history was the finish of the 1908 Marathon in London when an Italian candy maker, Dorando Pietri, collapsed on the final lap. He eventually crossed the finishing line but was disqualified for receiving assistance and left the arena on a stretcher.

Englishman Jim Peters held a 15-minute lead and was within sight of the finishing line when he collapsed suffering from dehydration at the end of the 1954 British Commonwealth Games Marathon in Vancouver. He failed to complete the course, taking 11 agonising minutes to cover half a lap, and never ran another Marathon.

Two Olympic Marathon "winners" who finished the race without looking unduly troubled by their efforts were soon revealed to be frauds. A West German student who led the runners into the Munich stadium in 1972 was discovered to have joined the race only a few hundred metres before coming into the arena, while in St. Louis in 1904 American Fred Lorz was found to have taken a lift in a car. Mr. Lorz, who was about to receive the victor's laurels, said he did it as a practical joke.

Perhaps the most effortless of the genuine Marathon runners was Mr. Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia who won the 1960 Olympic Gold Medal barefooted and repeated the feat four years later, this time wearing shoes but having only a few weeks earlier undergone an appendix operation. After winning he would subject himself to a routine of physical exercises that on their own would be enough to exhaust most men.

But Mr. Bikila was an exception. Running a Marathon takes most men to the outer limits

of suffering. For the great Czechoslovak runner Emil Zatopek this suffering transported him into a state of trance which he remembers being woken from by the sound of trumpets as he approached his triumph in the 1952 Olympic Marathon in Helsinki. Having been brought back to reality it was all Mr. Zatopek could do to save himself from falling to the ground.

The demands that a top Marathon runner puts on his stamina can be judged from the fact that over a period of more than two hours he will average nearly 21 kms. per hour. When Australian Derek Clayton ran the world's fastest Marathon in two hours, eight minutes, 33.6 seconds, he averaged under five minutes a mile or around three minutes a kilometre.

Many people believe that medical science will bring times down still further.

American Frank Shorter, who lost his Olympic title in Montreal last year to East German Waldemar Cieronski, said he would only try to regain it in 1980 "if I find some good doctors."

But European champion Ian Thompson of Britain believes that such techniques as blood doping (the extraction, isolation and then re-injection of red blood cells) are of little consequence. "Really the Marathon is a test of human spirit," he says.

Here Mr. Thompson may have provided the clue as to why Marathon running is becoming so popular.

If, beyond the exertion, the pain and the suffering there is something deeper to be derived from the Marathon we can begin to understand why 3,000 "people" lined up in Boston earlier this year. Surely it was something more than the world's largest convention of masochists.

Someone has said if you want to win something you run the sprints, if you want to experience something you run a Marathon.

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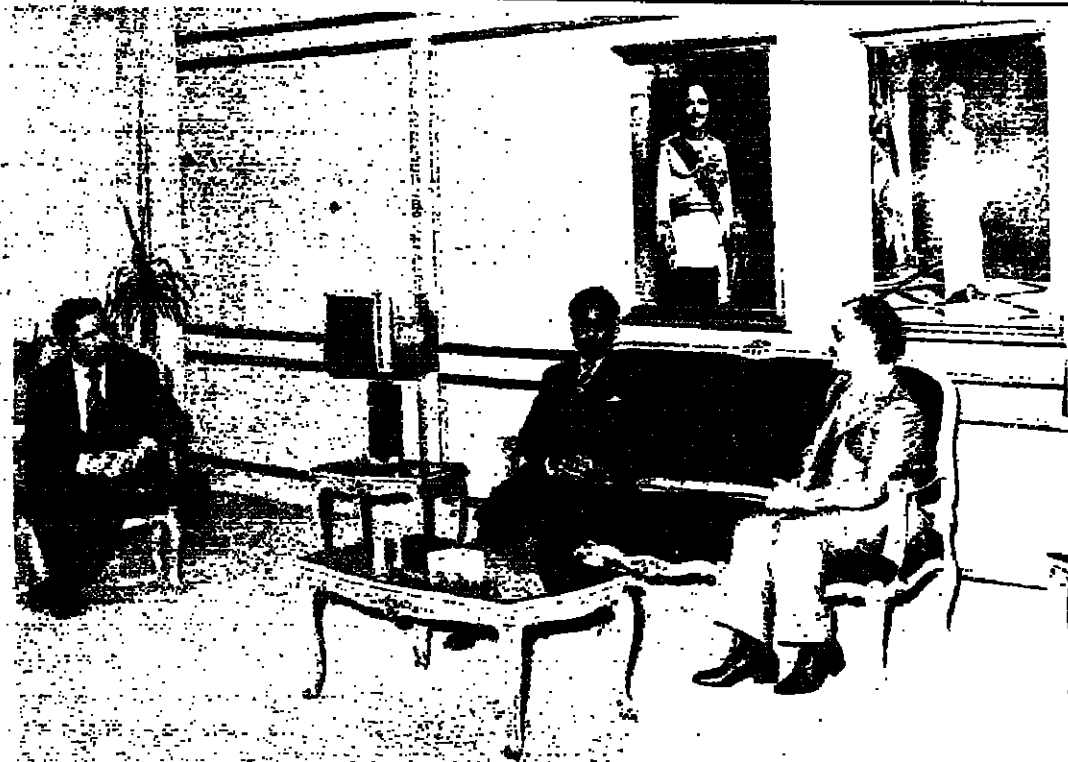
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His Majesty King Hussein, Omani ruler Sultan Qabus and Prince Hassan discuss matters at the Hashimiyeh Palace Thursday. The sultan is here on a short private visit.

Sultan Qabus arrives here on short visit

(See story page 1)



His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qabus walk together at Amman airport Thursday.



Sultan Qabus greets Premier Mudar Badran at Amman airport Thursday. Prince Hassan is obscured by the Omani ruler.



Full military honours are accorded Thursday at the funeral of a Jordanian soldier killed in action in the 1967 war. The Israeli authorities handed the body over to the U.N. Truce Supervisory Committee before it was buried at the Martyrs' Cemetery. (JNA photo).

LATTAKIA PORT DELEGATION VISITS AQABA

AQABA (JNA). — A delegation from the port of Lattakia in Syria paid a visit to Aqaba Thursday to look into the ways that the port authorities have solved the chronic congestion, which plagued it up to April. The delegation also inspected the floating berth.

Jordanian supervises probe into Arab-German relations

AMMAN (J.T.). — A Jordanian expert on Arab-German affairs will coordinate and supervise a study aimed at drawing up a balance-sheet of relations between the Arab World and West Germany.

Dr. Aref Hajjaj will work with Dr. Karl Kaiser, head of the Research Institute of the German Association of Foreign Policy, which is organising the project along with the Volkswagen Foundation.

Middle East experts, economists and parliamentarians will contribute to the study, which will focus on the Middle East conflict, oil and the Euro-Arab dialogue.

The findings of the team will be published as work progresses and later followed by the publication of a book covering the entire field of research.

A project in the same vein was sponsored in 1976 by the Volkswagen Foundation in association with the Development Institute at Bochum University and the German Orient Institute in Hamburg.

Last year's venture centred on the economic integration of the Arab World and took the shape of a "feasibility study". It also dealt with related themes such as the impact of Arab economic integration on the Mediterranean area and the European Common Market.

Authority created to implement joint projects

DAMASCUS, March 19 (JNA). — A permanent authority to carry out joint Jordanian-Syrian projects was set up by a sub-committee of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Technical Committee for Planning and Development, which ended its meetings here today.

It was also decided to unify follow-up methods for development plans in the two countries. This will enable the central planning agencies in

the two countries to coordinate better.

The two sides also agreed on the final draft of a unified publication for the evaluation of development plans.

The strategy sub-committee agreed, after a detailed debate on a proposed strategy up to the year 2000, to prepare a comprehensive economic and social survey for the two countries up to the year 2000. The study will be submitted to the technical committee at its next meeting in Amman July 4-6.



Her Highness Princess Basma and Labour Minister Issam Ajlouni Thursday meet students at an institute for marketing products of charities. They also visited the head office of the General Union of Charities. (JNA photo).

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — Progress on urgent road and building projects, as well as the road maintenance programme, was discussed at the monthly meeting of Ministry of Public Works engineers chaired by Minister Said Bino Thursday. He stressed the need for concerted efforts to complete maintenance work on all main, secondary and village roads according to schedule.

* AMMAN. — A seminar on higher administration in industrial development ended here Thursday. The seminar, held in the Public Administration Institute, debated a wide range of subjects on the important role of administration in achieving development goals.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf received the Italian ambassador in his office Thursday.

* AMMAN. — Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Kamal Hmud received the new Saudi ambassador here Thursday.

* AMMAN. — Two members of the U.S. House of Representatives will arrive in Amman on May 28 for a short visit to Jordan.

* AMMAN. — The first group of students of Islamic law at Martyr Sheikh Omari wing of the non-commissioned officers' headquarters was graduated in a ceremony held there Thursday.

Yarmouk becomes member of world university body

IRBID (JNA). — Yarmouk University has been accepted as a member of the World Universities Union. The university President, Dr. Adnan Badran, received a letter to this effect from the deputy secretary general of the union Thursday.

Yarmouk University was accepted as a member of the Arab Universities Union last November.

In a separate development, Dr. Badran and South Korean Ambassador Sang Yung Soh discussed ways of strengthening cooperation between Yarmouk and Korean universities.

Dr. Badran informed the ambassador of the university's achievements and future plans, as well as designs for the permanent university.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Wanted: Stamps

Dear Sir,

I am a 13-year-old English girl writing to you about my interest in collecting postage stamps.

First, I wish to inform you a little about myself. I have two holes in my heart and therefore have to regularly attend the heart hospital in Leicester. I need an operation, which takes eight-and-a-half hours, but a surgeon has told my mother that this is impossible, since I am too weak to withstand this kind of surgery.

Because of this, I will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of my life. I will not be able to play like other children, but I do have a hobby, which is most dear to me and gives me great happiness — I collect used postage stamps.

I am writing this letter since I do not have any Jordanian stamps. I would be most pleased to receive them from individuals, companies and banks. It does not matter if some are duplicates since I can exchange them with my friends all over the world.

Newspaper editors all over the world have helped by letting their readers know about me and how stamps give me great pleasure. Embassies, consuls, banks, large companies and postmasters regularly send me stamps and make me a very happy girl.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, His Holiness the Pope and princes and princesses from many countries have written to me. So I am saying my prayers that I may receive stamps from your readers.

Miss Frances Fullwood,
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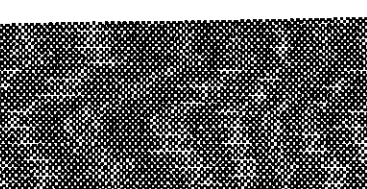
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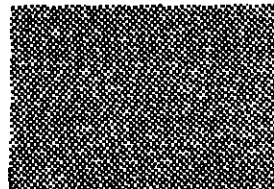
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British Leyland accused of paying huge international bribes for overseas orders

LONDON, May 19 (R). — A British Leyland spokesman declined comment early today in a press report that the government-backed car firm was paying huge international bribes in a desperate bid to win overseas orders.

Under the banner headline: "Worldwide bribery web by Leyland," the Daily Mail said that in the financial year 1976 to 1977, Leyland's records showed a forecast of £11,372,700 to be paid overseas in "slush money" — bribes and under-cover commission.

"The forecast for this year, 1977 to 1978, according to senior British Leyland executives, could be as much as £25 million," the Mail said.

Not since the Lockheed affair broke in America in August 1975 has there been such damning evidence of large-scale corporate corruption, the Daily Mail added.

In 1975, the Lockheed Corporation admitted it made about \$24 million in improper foreign payoffs to promote sales abroad, including in Japan where the scandal caused political upheaval including the downfall of Premier Kakuei Tanaka. The accusations also involved

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Husband of Queen Juliana.

The Daily Mail said British Leyland, the nationalised car manufacturer, "is paying bribes and conspiring to defraud foreign governments on a massive scale in a desperate bid to win overseas orders."

A British Leyland spokesman said: "Obviously, the allegations are extremely serious. We will have to examine them carefully before making any comment."

The newspaper said its investigations showed that these practices received the tacit approval of Lord Ryder, Chairman of British Leyland's National Enterprise Board. The board owns a 95 per cent stake in Leyland and the Mail said Lord Ryder himself cleared the arrangements with the government.

The newspaper quoted what

it claimed was a letter sent by Lord Ryder to Mr. Alex Park, Leyland's chief executive in October 1976. The first paragraph reads: "I must inform you that the proposed method for dealing with special account arrangements has now been nodded through by the secretary of state. You should also have received advice on this matter from the Bank of England."

Since nationalisation in 1975, the payments have been bureaucratised and systemised — and increased in amounts, the newspaper said.

"There is even an off-shore centre in Lausanne, Switzerland which has been given special responsibility for handling most of the payments, all of which are subject to regular audit by a senior official answerable directly to British Leyland's chief executive, Mr. Park."

The Mail quoted an extract from the letter alleged to be from Lord Ryder to Mr. Park which said "There was particular concern with the implications of the escalating trend of payment to contract agents particularly in the Middle East."

"These authorisations must in future in all cases be subject to the closest examination. As you should be aware, the government is becoming highly aware of contract padding and are taking very tough action against offenders," the extract said.

In addition to British Leyland's investigation of the charges, the Government and the National Enterprise Board, which owns 95 per cent of the company on behalf of the taxpayer — is also likely to begin immediate enquiries into whether the company is guilty of using taxpayers' money to win orders.

The Daily Mail report will certainly provoke questions in parliament which is due next week to hear the decision by Industry Secretary Eric Varley on the new Leyland development plan which includes the go-ahead for the new mini car.

In the difficult world of selling cars overseas — and 48 per cent of all Leyland cars were exported last year — it is generally believed in the trade that the wheels of business need to be "oiled" in some form or another.

One British motor industry observer commented: "You don't sell a fleet of cars or trucks on the strength of a bottle of sherry at Christmas."

The Daily Mail report said the alleged "special arrangements" covered a variety of methods — payments to fixers, particularly in the Middle East, to secure business contracts, padding contracts so that local distributors and agents could successfully evade local taxation and put their profits into Swiss bank accounts.

The newspaper said it had evidence of people calling at Leyland offices in Britain and receiving large bundles of cash in suitcases. This method of payment was described by the company as "suitscaseing," it added.

The Daily Mail said that in some cases, although Leyland books showed that payments had been made to agents abroad through Swiss or Liechtenstein bank accounts, the money had gone to corrupt company officials.

It said the bribes ranged from small "backhanders" of £750,000 commission to a man in Iran last year. The newspaper said payments in some contracts amounted to as much as 30 per cent of the total value.

The newspaper said it had evidence of people calling at Leyland offices in Britain and receiving large bundles of cash in suitcases. This method of payment was described by the company as "suitscaseing," it added.

The new president is an admirer of Walter Reuther, who led the UAW for 24 years until his death in an air crash in 1970. Mr. Fraser is generally regarded as a "liberal" and is known to favour improved conditions in character. He heads a union with 1,400,000 members. He has a reputation as an honest and tough negotiator. He began work in the motor industry at the age of 21.

Leyland reports no knowledge of bribes

LONDON, May 19 (AFP). — The National Enterprise Board, which holds 95 per cent of the shares of British Leyland Motor Corporation, today said it had "no knowledge" of alleged questionable payments by Leyland linked with foreign deals.

In a statement, the board said it had "no knowledge of the matters referred to in the alleged letter in the articles of the Daily Mail."

The statement added: "British Leyland has already an-

Abqaiq fire resulted in \$100 million loss

RIYADH, May 19 (R). — The Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco) said today that the fire at Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia last week caused losses estimated at \$100 million.

Aramco Vice-President George Larsen, in a press statement, said that committees had been formed by the company and the government to investigate the fire.

He ruled out sabotage and said the proximity of a pipeline which fractured and destroyed a pumping station was a factor leading to the fire.

Pumping would return to normal within a week, Mr. Larsen declared.

UAW elects Fraser to succeed Woodcock

LOS ANGELES, California, May 19 (AFP). — Glasgow-born Douglas Fraser has been elected president of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Union after seven years as vice-president.

Mr. Fraser, 60, who reached Detroit at the age of six, takes over from Leonard Woodcock, who will lead the U.S. liaison office in Peking.

The new president is an admirer of Walter Reuther, who led the UAW for 24 years until his death in an air crash in 1970. Mr. Fraser is generally regarded as a "liberal" and is known to favour improved conditions in character. He heads a union with 1,400,000 members. He has a reputation as an honest and tough negotiator. He began work in the motor industry at the age of 21.

Iran doubts an oil price settlement in Stockholm

TEHRAN, May 19 (AFP). — Fears that the oil countries will fail to settle their oil price divergences by the Stockholm meeting two months from now, were expressed today by a newspaper here that also hit at Saudi Arabia's attitude.

Referring to the "two-tier" oil pricing arrangement in force since the new year, the French-language Journal De Tehran said: "The gap between the two tendencies is as wide as at the start of the year. It is not impossible that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will face an uncertain situation for a fairly long period ahead."

It reiterated the Iranian view that the oil price problem is economic and not political. The question was "classified" by

the political approach adopted by Saudi Arabia.

In the absence of immediate or long-term solutions to the Israeli-Arab dispute, "The Saudi policy could continue in accordance with the ups and downs of the attitude by President Carter, whose undeniable ability is to hide his cards," the paper observed.

In reference to big Iranian sales due to the big oil fire in Saudi Arabia, it said: "This shows that the international companies are not fooled by illusions spread about concerning a 'flooding' of world markets by cheap Saudi oil."

The companies feared that the OPEC members, less Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, would go through with their five per cent rise in July, it said.

Japan to set up nuclear reprocessing plant despite U.S. disapproval

TOKYO, May 19 (AFP). — Japan has "the right to reprocess spent nuclear fuel and does not need to be told by anyone," Ryokichi Imai, technical chief of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission, said today in Tokyo.

He told newsmen he did not think the operation of the reprocessing plant in Tokai Mura (north east of Tokyo) scheduled for July would be delayed.

Japan-U.S. talks on this broke down in April when the American government remained unwilling to approve the operation. Another round of talks will take place later this month.

Asked about a possible U.S. embargo of uranium Mr. Imai replied: "The U.S. and Japan have obligations under mutual treaties. There is a basic understanding of nuclear policy, so the U.S. will provide uranium."

Nevertheless, if such an "extreme position" was taken by the U.S., the reason "would be more important than the well-being of the alliance."

He pointed out risk and cost analysis as criteria. "The benefit of nuclear power is much larger than people thought 20 years ago," he said.

British lord auctions estate and contents for record prices

LONDON, May 19 (R). — An auctioneer yesterday began selling off the treasures of Mentmore Towers, one of Britain's great stately homes, watched by the peer who was forced to sell it and the servants it will no longer need.

The £958,750 takings in the first hour was a world record for the sale of house contents with items such as the rubens fireplace still to be auctioned.

Lord Rosebery, forced to sell to avoid death duties, watched the bidding in the marquee set up on the lawn outside the house.

As the sale continued, the butler, Douglas Chadwick, took the other servants downstairs to talk over old times.

France counts cost of nuclear energy

PARIS, (RFD) — In 1978, electricity production from nuclear bases in France under the auspices of Electricite de France, represented roughly 10 per cent of the total production of energy.

This energy source is produced in the graphite-gas centres in Marcoule, Chinon, Saint Laurent des Eaux, Monts d'Arree and Bugey and in the heavy water factories in Fessenheim and Bugey — not to mention the Phoenix nuclear reactor. The EDF also receives supplies from nuclear-based power stations built jointly with neighbouring countries such as the Chooz power station in Belgium. From 1978 to 1982 new services are expected to be installed in the Gravelines, Paluel, Fessenheim, Saint Laurent des Eaux, Dampierre, Bugey, Blayais and Tricastin power stations.

The EDF has dedicated most of its investments to the nuclear sector. Out of 15 power stations being built, eight are nuclear: five are hydraulic and two are of the "classic thermal" type. Whilst the ultimate power of the nuclear power stations is roughly 20 million kw; the thermal is less than 1.5 million kw and the hydraulic less than one million kw.

The government has however, reduced this emphasis on the nuclear sector believing that the level of consumption has been over-estimated. The ecological militants have also played a part in influencing this decision.

A new debate is likely to begin soon amongst nuclear experts and later, with local authorities. According to recent studies undertaken by the European Community in Brussels, the gap between the cost of nuclear energy and petroleum-based energy is not as great as it has been over the past years. Petrol, which cost twice as much as nuclear products at the highest point of its steep rise; now costs 30 per cent more. The petrol market may reserve some bad surprises for us during the next few years, when demand will be heavier than it is today. Also the nuclear sector will allow more independence vis-a-vis the uranium producers than the petroleum-producers of the Middle East.

In short, the new findings of experts from the EEC will certainly not threaten the EDF nuclear programme but, they may result in a certain slowing-down due to a new influence on the ulterior projects.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	140.0	140.4
French franc	66.8	67.1
Italian lira (for every 100)	131.0	131.4
Saudi riyal	37.3	37.5
Lebanese pound	93.3	93.5
Syrian pound	107.5	108.2
Iraqi dinar	81.0	81.3
Kuwaiti dinar	947.0	958.0
Egyptian pound	1,146.0	1,150.0
Libyan dinar	460.0	465.0
UAE dirham	760.0	770.0
	84.6	85.0

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London foreign exchange market Thursday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

one sterling =	1.7179 / 81	U.S. dollars
one dollar =	2.3545 / 65	West German marks
	2.4490 / 4510	Dutch guilders
	2.5175 / 95	Swiss francs
	36.05 / 10	Belgian francs
	4.9470 / 6800	French francs
	886.10 / 20	Italian lire
	276.90 / 277.10	Japanese yen
	4.3520 / 70	Swedish crowns
	5.2700 / 50	Norwegian crowns
	6.0150 / 0200	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices suffered a mild setback Thursday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average lost a little more than five points in active trading.

Profit-taking following four straight sessions of gains put some pressure on the market today. Investors were also showing some nervousness as many were awaiting the latest money and credit statistics from the Fed, as well as the Labour Department report, stated for Friday, on the April consumer price index.

Declines outnumbered advances at the bell by a moderate 770 to 611 margin, as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to slightly lower tone.

Steel, paper and department store issues were among the hardest hit and U.S. Steel lost one point to 43-5/8, while International Paper fell 1-3/8 to 55-1/2. Sony was unchanged at 9-1/8 in active trading, while British Petroleum lost 1/2 to 16-1/4.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 936.48, a loss of 5.43 points; Transp at 245.18, a loss of 1.46; utilities at 111.83, a loss of 0.10. 21,280,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,310,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed generally lower on lack of buying interest and some profit-taking, dealers said. At 15:00 Thursday the F.T. index was down 6.6 at 470.8.

Long-dated government stocks lost up to 1/2 point while shorts were occasionally 1/16 to 1/8 easier. Leading industrials were up to 9p lower. Interest centred on several special situations apart from routine profit taking.

Oils were generally easier, while banks finished little changed. Mining shares were slightly easier in quiet trading. Australians mixed and Canadians lower following the investment dollar premium.

Bowater featured early trading after announcing a 32 vin stg rights issue and its shares closed around 9p easier.

Beecham was 6p easier among leaders after full year results and among other companies reporting figures, U.D.S. lost around 4p, Trafalgar House eased a penny or so, Boots lost a penny and Coats Paton finished slightly higher after moving irregularly.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$146.85/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* PARIS, May 19 (AFP). — The French government yesterday reported a slight drop in France's oil import bill in the first quarter of the year. A report presented to a cabinet meeting said France imported crude oil worth 14,000 million francs (about \$2,800 million) in January, February and March, this was 500 million francs (about \$100 million) less than anticipated by the government.

* LONDON, May 19 (R). — The Arab League will give financial aid to Uganda to recruit and finance technical experts, Uganda radio said yesterday. The radio, monitored here, said the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mahmud Riyad, and the Ugandan ambassador to Egypt signed an agreement which will be automatically renewable each year.

* NEW DELHI, May 19 (AFP). — The Indian Jute Mills Association believes that it could regain much of its lost market for jute goods in the Mideast if mill exporters and others involved in gunny exports could form a consortium to bid for tenders floated by Mideast nations, association head Gourilal Mehta said here this week.

* TEL AVIV, May 19 (R). — Olympic airway personnel in Israel went out on strike today over demands for higher wages and improved work conditions. The Greek airline has four flights a week to Israel.

* NEW DELHI, May 19 (AFP). — India had a trade surplus in 1976-77 for the first time in more than a decade as exports exceeded imports by 720 million rupees (\$32 million), it was announced here Wednesday. Exports during the period hit a record figure of 49.8 billion rupees, a three-fold increase over the level seven years ago.

* WASHINGTON, May 19 (AFP). — The United States ran a trade deficit of nearly \$7 billion in the first quarter of this year according to still provisional payments figures released yesterday. The commerce department said imports during the first three months totalled \$36,581 million on a seasonally adjusted basis, while exports came to around \$29,700 million. This compared with respectively \$33,291 million worth of imports and exports totaling \$29,717 million in the last quarter of 1976.

Sugar producers, consumers meet to determine new

In November 1974 sugar was being sold on the world market for 56.6 cents a pound. Today the price is only 10 cents.

The need for a new world sugar pact is accepted by all. Six weeks of talks between producers and consumers have now opened in Geneva. Agreement seems likely and would give impetus to the efforts for other commodity agreements to be set up by the UNCTAD target date of May 1978.

LONDON (Gemini). — Major sugar producing and consuming countries are meeting in Geneva to discuss a new international sugar agreement. The meeting is expected to last six weeks and there is every chance that a new agreement will be reached.

It was in Geneva in 1973 that the Sugar Conference on renewal of the 1968 agreement broke down over price provisions.

Canada and Japan, the largest importers, formed an alliance in an attempt to keep prices as low as possible.

Exporters wanted minimum and maximum prices of 6.00 cents and 9.00 cents a pound; the importers were prepared only to offer 4.00 cents and 7.00 cents. The result was agreement for only an information gathering and consultative mechanism with no regulating function.

Since the Geneva breakdown volatile sugar prices have pushed producing and consuming countries into efforts to re-establish a new sugar agreement. Meetings organised by the International Sugar Organisation in London last year, helped to lay down its broad outlines.

The consensus was that a new agreement should incorporate measures similar to that of 1968. The basic measure used in this agreement is the quota system.

Under this system exporting countries would agree to raise or lower export quotas in order to keep sugar prices within an agreed price band. When prices were high quotas would be increased and when they were too low quotas would be decreased.

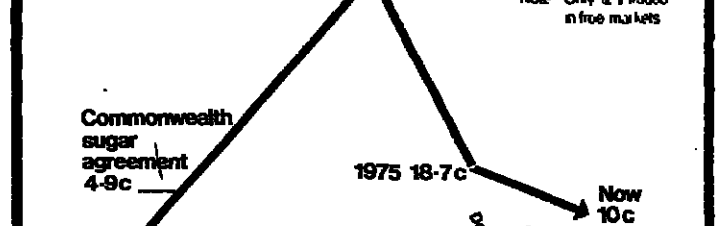
In addition to quotas, the new sugar agreement may include purchase and supply commitments. The old one had a supply commitment, but consumers were not compelled to buy specific amounts.

Finally, the new agreement would be backed up with buf-

SUGAR

A commodity in growing demand

World sugar output is 60% cane, 40% beet. 90% of sugar exported is cane. Demand for sugar rises about 2-4% a year.



Main exporters

Cuba	25.9	Brazil	10.6	7.7	7.5	6.6	5.0
------	------	--------	------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Main importers

US	26.8	Japan	11.1	USSR	10.8	UK	8.6	Italy	4.1	Canada	3.7
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Balance between supply and demand is very fine. Estimated output for 1976-7 is 87.5m tons. Consumption 83.2m. Stocks 26.5m.

aim any new agreement must support a minimum price of 15 cents at the least. Industrialised consuming countries appear to be suggesting that they would find a minimum of 10 cents a pound much more acceptable.

In addition to price bands, buffer stocks and quotas, efforts to stabilise sugar prices will have to ensure against over-production. Agreement by consumers to commit themselves to purchase specific quantities of sugar will go some way towards alleviating this problem.

However, a key factor will be the relationship between cane and beet production. The fact that refined sugar is obtainable from two quite different plants lies at the heart of the modern world sugar economy. World output of sugar is now divided between 60 per cent cane and 40 per cent beet.

However, in world trade 90 per cent of sugar exported is cane, mainly from the poorer developing countries. The beet producing countries constitute a fairly homogenous group, with all but a few ranking in the upper third of the world

income scale. If over production of cane is to be avoided beet producing countries which are also cane consumers would have to come to some arrangement about the amount of beet produced.

In this context present European Economic Community plans for expansion of beet sugar production would have to be seriously reconsidered if they accept the need for an international sugar agreement with the objective of stabilised prices.

Last year, within the EEC, beet acreage expanded despite a 3 million ton surplus of sugar.

It is still too early to assess whether the Geneva conference will be able to overcome all these problems, participants are now all agreed on the need for a new sugar agreement.

If an agreement is established, it could provide a positive impetus to other possible commodity agreements which UNCTAD hopes would be set up before May 1978. It may also give fresh impetus to the need to establish a Common Fund.

The producing countries cl-

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Finish errands and shopping chores before considering social activities. Take a good look at home and family interests and make plans to put them in better shape for the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Take a little time to check utilities, car early and be safe. Expedite routine matters efficiently and have more spare time for new ideas you have in mind. Postpone socializing until another time.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle monetary affairs first, then contact good friends for good purposes. Find a better way to produce more.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take care of personal duties early. See where you can improve your appearance, either through an updated wardrobe or beauty treatments. Try to please friends more.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on all the work piled up about you before you consider recreation of any sort. Come to a better understanding with mate, loved one, via intelligent discussions.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Be firm in a decision you make, and then contact good friends for backing you need. Future looks brighter.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Business first, pleasure later. There's a chance of a happy meeting with an old friend, flame.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Find novel ways of self-expression. Confer with an expert in such in order to gain the know-how. Make right new partners before taking care of credit matters. Think more kindly of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make sure you keep any promises you have made early and then you can get out to new interests, attractions. Do something practical for a loved one that will be appreciated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find out what kin wish of you early and then try to help them. A new partner you are considering should be well screened first. Think along more optimistic lines.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Financial actions are favored now. Sign papers, especially where money is concerned. Try to develop a new source of income.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan recreation with good friends early. Improve wardrobe and improve appearance. Use discretion in private matters.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your unsolicited advice may not be appreciated. Handle some fundamental need early before you consider going out.

RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO

店飯光觀灣臺

3rd Circle Jabal Amman

supply Chinese food and special family dinner : only JD 1.250 including one soup one dish plain rice or bread.

Welcome and enjoy our typical delicious Chinese food.

Many many thanks for your kindly patronage.

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

BEN HALL :
BLIND JUSTICE

Commanding officer is certain about the guilt of one of his men accused of murder, but his men are sure of his innocence.

GUNSMOKE :
CHATO

Marshal Dillon tries his best to imprison Indian known to be a professional killer.

KOJAK :
ANOTHER GYPSY QUEEN

Kojak, misled by false information, stalks gypsy for murder.

OUT AND ABOUT

3133 STARKOUST

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Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte.

Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

Chinese Restaurant

First Chinese restaurant in Jordan.

First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahliah School or CHS. Tel. 39968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight.

Also take home service - order by phone.

Quick Meal

Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks.

Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle.

Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luwaidah, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 39648.

Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781.

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For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38368.

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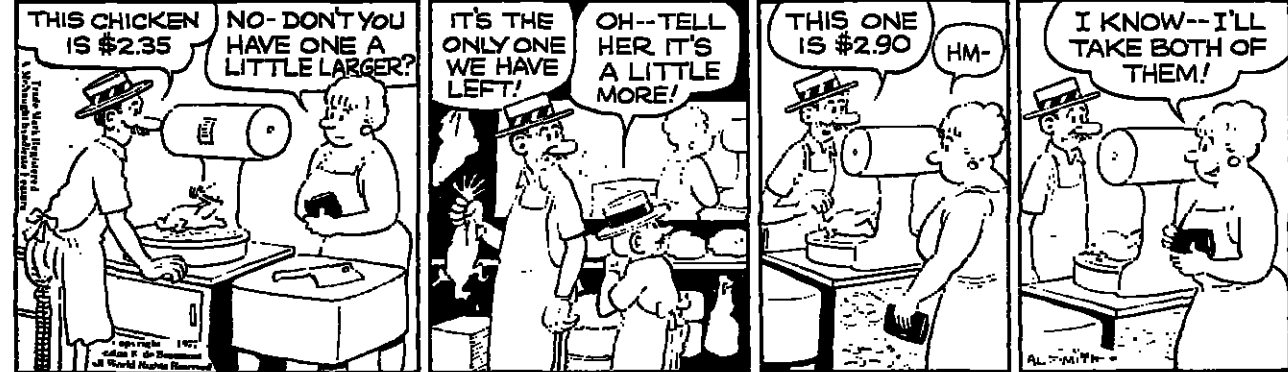
PEANUTS



ANDY GAPP



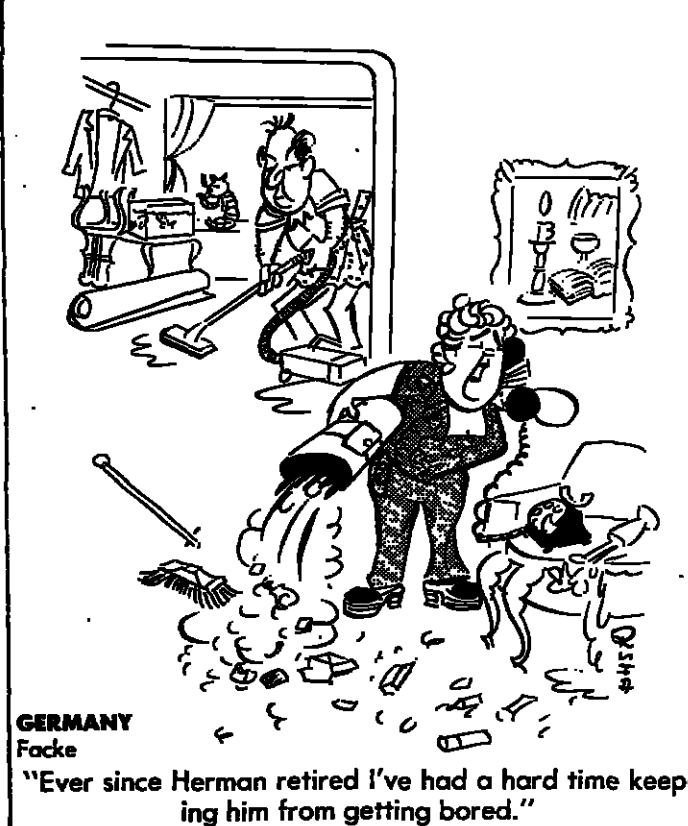
MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



WORLD RECORD

The most expensive dress ever sold by a Paris fashion house was one by Pierre Balmain (Directrice, Ginette Spanier), to a non-European Royal Personage for £4,500 in 1971.

GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQJ7 ♠AQ ♠K10962 ♦83
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 2 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Two spades. Technically, this is a reverse bid and you are a whisker short for it. However, any other bid risks losing the spade suit, for if West raises clubs, it will be far too dangerous to introduce the suit at the three level. Partner should take into account that the course of the auction might have forced you into a slight overbid.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable with 40 on score, you hold:
♠K95 ♠KQJ106 ♦AK76 ♠8
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—One heart. With no fit for partner's suit, a jump shift is not recommended. The hand will bid easier if you start with a simple one-over-one response and jump shift into diamonds at your next turn.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ763 ♠94 ♦K5 ♠KQ72
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♥ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—One spade. This is not the type of hand that qualifies for a jump shift as a passed hand, either your suit should be much better or you should have a fit for partner's suit. Also, bear in mind that partner might have opened light in third seat, so don't hang him for it.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠74 ♠965 ♦AJ6 ♠AK873
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Three diamonds. Partner will believe we have a genuine suit, but this is the time to tell a little white lie. By pinpointing our strength in diamonds, we hope that partner will be in a position to contract for game in no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠84 ♠AJ754 ♦J83 ♠K95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♦ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Since partner did rebid freely, he probably has a better than minimum opening bid. However, for the moment we can do no more than simply give preference to his first suit. Unless partner can act again, we doubt whether our side can make game.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♠AQ762 ♦6 ♠K9874
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♦ 2 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—Pass—It is partner's turn to act. When an opponent declines to show proper respect and interferes in the auction by bidding the suit in which your partner opened, you owe partner the chance to inform your opponents that he does not take kindly to that action. It looks as if you might have a misfit, and your only profit may come from setting the opponents.

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ8 ♠J1062 ♦7 ♠AKQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 4 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—East's interference bid has made scientific investigation of the hand's potential nearly impossible. We favor a jump to six hearts, though we would not fault you if you tried for a grand slam by asking for aces with four no trump.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOMAD

PIPNY

DISNAL

FARIDA

Answer: A "GOMAD" ONE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAKY ANISE FLABBY PLEDGE

Answer: They might give "tone" to a party—"BELLES"

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

If I'm elected I'll...

Yeh, sure

POLITICS CAN BE THIS KIND OF CAREER.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Semisolid mass. 30. Gemel

5. Rowan 31. Of the ear

8. Tsetse 33. Roofing slate

1. Ship's fixed 35. Went ahead

2. Delandant 36. Glacier pinnacle

variant 38. Pledge

13. Spawn of fish 40. Plum

15. Surgical needle 42. Vain

16. Blower 46. Purveyor

17. Plague 49. Christmas

18. Inside 50. Turkish chamber

19. River island 51. Number

21. Uncut 52. Secretive person

25. Public vehicle 53. Redberry evergreen

TAPERS FERAL

ENAMEL ARENA

LOGGERS TILED

LAT IDE AIM

FAERY ROW

SATAN SAGENE

TRANCE TIDED

YEN ELVAN

NAD KEG EGO

LOGES SHAVER

ISERE TALENT

TERNE ANANAS

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

54. Counterfeit

55. Waputis

4. Integument of a seed

5. Umpire

6. Comprehended

7. Hesitates

8. To and ---

9. Base

10. I do

16. Boor

20. Supposing

22. Shoemaker's tool

23. Complete

24. Limit

25. Cow genus

26. Indian

27. Lord or gentleman

29. Doubtful

32. Miner's platform

34. Continue

37. St John's bread

39. Cringe

41. Cheek

43. Pretty woman

44. Drip

45. Trees

46. Difficult

47. Humorous

48. Shooter

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC RADIO	AMMAN AIRPORT
Channel 2 & 6: 06:30 News 06:35 Cartoons 06:40 Arabic music 06:45 Three minutes 06:50 Religious programme 06:55 Cultural film 07:00 Arabic music 07:05 Ben Hall 07:10 Football match 07:15 Doc Elliot 07:20 Arabic features 07:25 Gimmicks 07:30 News in Arabic 7:30 Breakfast show 7:35 News 7:45 News reports 7:50 Sports 7:55 Pop music 8:00 News summary 8:05 Sports 8:10 News 8:15 Radio magazine 8:20 Omar Al Khattab 8:25 Contact hour	Channel 3: 06:30 Religious programme 06:35 Arabic music 06:40 Reportage 06:45 The World Today 06:50 News: Press Review 06:55 The Music Room 07:00 News: 24 hours 07:05 Sarah Ward 07:10 Merchant Navy Prog. 07:15 News: Reflections 07:20 Music from Old Vienna 07:25 Be My Guest 07:30 News: Press Review 07:35 The World Today 07:40 Financial News 07:45 Trade and Prejudice 07:50 The World Today 07:55 Folk and Country 08:00 News: 24 hours 08:05 Sarah Ward 08:10 Merchant Navy Programme 08:15 News: Reflections 08:20 Music from Old Vienna 08:25 Be My Guest 08:30 News: Press Review 08:35 The World Today 08:40 Financial News 08:45 Trade and Prejudice 08:50 The World Today 08:55 Folk and Country 09:00 News: 24 hours 09:05 Sarah Ward 09:10 Merchant Navy Programme 09:15 News: Reflections 09:20 Music from Old Vienna 09:25 Be My Guest 09:30 News: Press Review 09:35 The World Today 09:40 Financial News 09:45 Trade and Prejudice 09:50 The World Today 09:55 Folk and Country 10:00 News: 24 hours 10:05 Sarah Ward 10:10 Merchant Navy Programme 10:15 News: Reflections 10:20 Music from Old Vienna 10:25 Be My Guest 10:30 News: Press Review 10:35 The World Today 10:40 Financial News 10:45 Trade and Prejudice 10:50 The World Today 10:55 Folk and Country 11:00 News 11:15 News of England 11:20 Discovery 12:00 Radio Newswest 12:15 Terry Wogan's LP 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 News: 24 hours 13:05 Sarah Ward 13:10 Under The West 13:15 Don Moss Reports	Arrivals: 7:00 Abu Dhabi 7:05 Muscat, India 7:35 Cairo (E.A) 7:45 Baghdad 8:20 Beirut 8:40 Baghdad 8:45 Beirut (MEA) 9:40 Baghdad 9:45 Baghdad, Haifa, Jeddah, Mad., Jeddah, Bahrain, Truf 10:00 Athens, Amsterdam 11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen 12:00 Cairo 12:45 Kuwait (KAC) 14:15 Madinat, Jeddah, Ta. Jeddah (SDI) 18:15 Damascus (SAA) 19:00 Baghdad, Karachi 19:20 Dubai, (KAA) 22:25 Ramatallah (PA) 23:00 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa) 01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)
RADIO JORDAN 16:00 Job Invention 16:30 Early Interview 17:00 Science report 17:30 Pop session 18:00 News summary 18:15 Sports 18:20 News 18:25 Radio magazine 18:30 Omar Al Khattab 18:35 Contact hour	Channel 4: 06:30 The Breakfast Show 06:35 06:30, 06:50, and 06:55 06:50 06:50 (GMT) 24 hours 06:55 06:55 (GMT) 24 hours 0	

Waldheim rules out further Geneva-like Rhodesian talks

GENEVA, May 19 (AFP). — U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today ruled out any resumption of negotiations between the Rhodesian government and African nationalists along the lines of last year's ill-fated Geneva conference, but said diplomatic contacts would continue.

This would be a long process, Mr. Waldheim told a press conference, but the situa-

tion was "very serious and dangerous" and if not resolved by negotiation "a military confrontation will be inevitable," he said.

The secretary general added that he was "satisfied" with British and American efforts on Rhodesia although he said he was not sure they would succeed.

Meanwhile, President Kenneth Kaunda disclosed in Lusaka today that landmines planted by Rhodesian security forces in Zambian soil killed an undisclosed number of Zambians on the border with Rhodesia yesterday.

Addressing a huge crowd at Ndola Airport, north of Lusaka, Dr. Kaunda said there were landmine explosions on the Zambia-Rhodesia border yesterday "in which some lives were lost."

The Zambian leader, who did not elaborate, told the crowd that this incident triggered the shooting and exchange of fire in the Victoria Falls area between Zambian and Rhodesian security forces.

Meanwhile, pledges of military support for Zambia in the face of Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith's invasion threat, which was relayed to President Kaunda by Britain, continued to be made today.

Romania this morning joined several other countries in pledging its full military solidarity with Zambia.

A Romanian Embassy statement reaffirmed support for Zambia's struggle against aggression and other "machinations of the imperialist, colonialist and neo-colonialist regime in Southern Africa."

Tanzania, Jamaica, Kenya and Yugoslavia have already assured Zambia that if it was attacked, they would come to Zambia's aid.

In Bulawayo, Rhodesia, it was announced today that at least 25 Rhodesian Africans were injured last night when a grenade exploded in a crowded beerhall.

Police hinted they were treating the incident as a crime rather than a guerrilla attack.

A week ago, a goods train on the main Bulawayo railroad through Botswana to South Africa detonated a mine on a section of the track in a Bulawayo suburb of Bellevue.

S. Yemen-Ethiopia-Somalia union was considered

CAIRO, May 19 (Agencies). — The heads of state of Somalia, Cuba, Ethiopia and South Yemen held a secret summit meeting in Aden last month but failed to settle differences between Somalia and Ethiopia, Somali President Siad Barre said in an interview published here today.

He told the semi-official Al

Sudanese P.M. denies Egyptian troops sent to face Ethiopians

ABU DHABI, May 19 (R). — Sudanese Prime Minister Al Rashid Al Tahir Bakr, has denied a Kuwaiti newspaper report that some 33,000 Egyptian soldiers were in his country to help Sudanese troops in case of an armed clash with Ethiopia.

The newspaper, Al Qabas, quoting diplomatic sources in Beirut, said yesterday a large percentage of the 33,000 troops were stationed on the border with Ethiopia.

Addressing a press conference here last night Mr. Bakr also denied reports by another Kuwaiti newspaper, Al Siyassah, that Sudan planned to send airmen and other forces to Zaire.

Mr. Bakr, who arrived here from Qatar last Monday, and Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad Al Nahyan, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Premier, last night signed an accord on agricultural and industrial cooperation.

Ahram newspaper that Cuban President Fidel Castro, President Salem Robaye' Ali of South Yemen and Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam, the Ethiopian head of state, attended the meeting.

He said that Dr. Castro had proposed during the meeting a confederation between South Yemen, Ethiopia and Somalia

but "we have rejected the offer."

He said that the summit meeting failed to reach agreement "because of Ethiopia's intransigence. Dr. Castro tried to compromise between our various viewpoints, but he failed," President Barre said.

The president also affirmed that Somalia has no intention of annexing Djibouti — the French Territory of Affairs and Issas — or going to war over the Horn of Africa region.

He told the Egyptian daily that Somalia supported the independence of Djibouti and remained committed to this position, unless the people of Djibouti themselves wanted to join Somalia.

There was no reason to go

Portugal denies charges over violence in Azores

LISBON, May 19 (AFP). — Charges that President Antonio Ramalho Eanes acted rashly in connection with separatist demonstrations on Portugal's Azores Islands last weekend were brushed aside today by sources close to the president's office.

Yesterday, Acores, a newspaper considered to speak for the separatists, blamed Mr. Eanes for triggering the violence that Monday injured nine persons, four of them policemen, on Sao Miguel the lar-

gest island of the mid-Atlantic chain.

President Eanes had earlier accused local authorities of "inactions" in dealing with the separatists after a regional flag was hoisted higher than the Portuguese banner at religious festival on Sao Miguel on Sunday.

The sources maintained that Mr. Eanes knew "exactly what he was doing" when he issued the statement, widely interpreted as the first official move to call the island's regional authorities to order.

They said he acted only after conferring on the situation with Portugal's top representative on the islands, Gen. Galvao de Figueiredo, Prime Minister Mario Soares and Francisco Carneiro, whose Social Democrat Party controls the Azores' local government.

Sources close to the Social Democrats, meanwhile, suggested that the Socialist Party had set President Eanes up for a fall over the incident.

The president's sharp reaction to the flag-flying, they said, merely "sparked off the fire," leading to Monday's pre-dawn violence.

\$1.3m needed to wipe smallpox off the earth

GENEVA, May 19 (R). — The World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday the costs of its campaign to wipe smallpox from the face of the earth had risen from \$2.6 million to \$3.9 million and appealed to its 150 member states for additional cash.

The WHO said that most of the extra \$1.3 million would be earmarked for stepped-up search and surveillance operations in Somalia, southern Ethiopia and northeastern Kenya — the last area of the world still at risk.

A special report to the WHO Annual Assembly now meeting here said smallpox had crossed and recrossed the borders of these African countries since last September, carried by nomads.

The target date for eradicating smallpox — originally planned for late last year — had now been put back until "the next few months."

The WHO reported this year's highest outbreak of smallpox last week, the seventh week running that cases had increased, with the weekly total at 119 cases. Four cases were reported from Ethiopia — the first in nine months. Most were in Somalia, a victim of imported smallpox from Ethiopia, the WHO said.

The World health body, which began its anti-smallpox campaign 10 years ago, said the killer form of Asian smallpox had been wiped out but "ironically the relative mildness of the (African) strain is blamed by experts for the disease's spread."

British newspapers agree Likud's victory is not a good omen for Middle East peace

LONDON, May 19 (R). — British newspapers today reported the victory of Mr. Menachem Begin in Israel's elections with front-page banner headlines and weighty editorials pondering what effects the result would have on peace in the area.

"Israel poll result endangers peace in the area" was how the businessmen daily, the Financial Times, headlined its story.

In an editorial the newspaper commented that the result made the politics of the Middle East as a whole more confused. "The victory of the winners will be those who have always regarded a U.S. led initiative for a Middle East settlement only as a time-wasting diversion."

"The Palestinians may well welcome Mr. Begin's arrival because an Israeli government stubborn on the question of withdrawal postpones the difficult day when they have to decide whether or not to accept a mini-state of Palestine. At the same time it makes life far more difficult for the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Jordan."

They have displayed comparative moderation and a willingness to compromise.

The newspaper concluded: "Until now progress towards peace has weakened the cause of the hard-line rejectionists. It would be a tragedy if the emergence of an Israeli rejectionist government strengthened their case and drew the more moderate Arab politicians into more active consideration of war to solve problems in the Middle East."

The Times ran a two-column profile on Mr. Begin entitled: "Israel's founding father reaps the rewards of terrorism."

The article, by Mr. Louis Heren, said: "...his victory at the polls provides that terrorism does pay. Mr. Arafat should be encouraged."

In an editorial the newspaper said: "The victory of Likud is a snub to those moderate Arab leaders and liable to endanger their political position in their own countries and in the Arab World at large."

"The American administration... is likely to be more cautious than ever about putting pressure on Israel for fear of provoking Israel's new

extremist leaders into even more extreme policies with disastrous results."

"On the other hand and for the same reason, the U.S. reluctance to help Israel acquire very sophisticated and destructive weapons is now likely to grow."

"In the last resort, Israel's new leaders will find themselves confronted by the same hard decisions as their predecessors. In the past their role has been to make these hard decisions harder. From now on they will be confronted with direct responsibility for the consequences of the policies they advocate. The world can only hope that they will act responsibly," the Times concluded.

The conservative Daily Telegraph said that in a country like Israel "there are many differing interpretations which can be placed on the term rightwing. Mr. Menachem Begin is rightwinger by any standards."

The Telegraph said in an editorial that the economy was likely to be the area where change becomes most apparent on the home front. "It will be

Young: U.S. for peace in Southern Africa

MAPUTO, May 19 (R). — Mr. Andrew Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, today made an impassioned appeal for negotiated settlements to Southern Africa conflicts and pledged his government to an all-out drive for peace in the region.

Mr. Young told a U.N. conference on Southern Africa here: "Wherever there is a possibility of negotiated settlements, of bringing about majority rule and justice without massive destruction of persons and property, I would say that the history of Africa says that it is to be preferred."

The black ambassador added: "It is only when negotiated settlements have been totally refused and rejected that armed struggle becomes inevitable."

Arguing that Americans had faced similar struggles to the Africans, Mr. Young said a "substantial revolutionary change" had been brought about in the U.S. by the black civil rights movement, which had fought a type of colonialism in the south of the country.

But Rhodesian nationalist leader Robert Mugabe, asked for his impressions of Mr. Young's speech, said: "It's inapplicable. He's talking about U.S. civil rights, what we have is a colonial situation."

Mr. Mugabe, political leader of the largest guerrilla army fighting in Rhodesia, added: "I don't see any change in U.S. policy. He has to prove there is a revolution... he speaks about an internal fight, we have an external struggle."

In a prepared text to the conference, Mr. Young pledged the Carter administration to an all-out effort to resolve the problems of Southern Africa although the time remaining for such solutions was brief.

But he did not deliver the prepared text, having it distributed instead to the 90 delegates from U.N. member states and black nationalist movements. He then delivered a separate, 30 minute address.

Mr. Young said there was a new Commitment to majority

rule in Africa by the Carter administration.

He also told the delegates: "I would remind you respectfully that the history of freedom in Africa is not just a history of victory through armed struggle. The majority of countries in Africa have achieved independence through negotiated settlements."

Mr. Young said it might be difficult or impossible to reconcile the differences in Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa), but said economic and moral pressure was superior to military power.

In his prepared text, Mr. Young said the Southern Africa was the "smouldering racial crisis" in South Africa. "There as well time is the enemy. Refusal to take daring steps now will make progress later much more painful if not impossible."

"The United States will, therefore, let the South African government know that the American administration strongly believes that change in South Africa must begin now."

Mr. Young said: "I will pledge to you today our support and best efforts for a negotiated solution to the problem so that we may see an independent Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) under majority rule in 1978."

The ambassador plans to visit South Africa this week at the invitation of industrialist Harry Oppenheimer. He will address a business audience and meet black South Africans.

Issue of missing Greek-Cypriots will not hinder inter-communal talks today

NICOSIA, May 19 (R). — A committee representing the relatives of 2,500 Greek-Cypriots they say are missing as a result of the 1974 Turkish invasion has cancelled plans to block the resumption of inter-communal talks, a committee spokesman said today.

Greek-Cypriot negotiator Tasos Papadopoulos told the committee he understood the Turkish-Cypriots were willing to discuss setting up an international committee to inquire into the fate of the missing.

Yesterday the committee announced plans to stop Mr. Papadopoulos attending the talks by blocking the road leading to the hotel where they are to be resumed tomorrow.

"After hearing what Mr. Papadopoulos had to say, we felt we had no choice but to call off this action, even though we do not believe the Turks will discuss the matter seriously," the spokesman said.

"They are still maintaining that there are no missing persons, and no unaccounted prisoners," he added.

The Turks and the Turkish-Cypriot administration have consistently denied that they are holding any unaccounted prisoners and have claimed that those unaccounted for were probably killed in the purge that took place after the anti-Makarios coup of July 15, 1974, and before the Turkish landings, five days later.

They have also alleged that 800 Turkish-Cypriots are still unaccounted for as a result of Greek-Cypriot actions against the minority community between 1963 and 1974.

Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot negotiators meet here on Friday but observers expect no real progress in solving the political differences between the island's two communities.

At the same time on a 23,000 sq. metre site, less than a kilometre from the Attilla Line which divides the island, Archbishop Makarios will open Cyprus's second International State Fair.

It is his first public appearance since suffering a heart attack on April 3.

The coincidence of the two events neatly illustrates the stark contrast between the economic progress on the Greek-Cypriot side and the lack of progress on either side towards a settlement of the island's communal problems.

While the trade fair will be bigger and better than last year's with the United States and West Germany exhibiting in national pavilions for the first time, the most optimistic assessment of the new round of talks is that they will serve to keep the negotiating machinery working.

Although the two sides are supposed to discuss the vital territorial and constitutional matters on which they are so far apart, and are pledged to do so in "a sustained and

meaningful" manner, it is tacitly understood all round that no real progress can be made until after the June 5 parliamentary elections in Turkey.

Many on the Greek side wonder what is the point of holding talks at all at this stage. "To talk just for the sake of talking," said one prominent Greek-Cypriot this week, "merely gives the false impression that progress is being made and encourages the Turks to believe that they can stall indefinitely."

It is pressure from the United Nations, the United States and the EEC countries on both sides to keep the negotiating process going at all costs which has brought this latest round of talks about.

And so the two lawyers who represent their respective communities — Mr. Papadopoulos for the Greek-Cypriot and Mr. Umit Suleiman Onan for the Turkish-Cypriots — will get together, however reluctantly, across a table in the card room of the Ledra Palace Hotel, now neutral ground and headquarters for a U.N. Canadian battalion.

French cabinet approves bill on election to EEC parliament

PARIS, May 19 (AFP). — The French cabinet yesterday approved a bill on the election of the nine-nation European Parliament by universal suffrage containing safeguards against possible moves to extend the assembly's jurisdiction.

Government spokesman Jean-Philippe Lecat said the bill contained an article stipulating that "any extension of competence that might be claimed by the European Parliamentary Assembly" would be considered as "void."

He said this clause should meet the requirements of "a

very large part" of the French National Assembly when the bill comes up for debate next June 15-16.

Observers said the safeguard clause was introduced into the bill in a bid to reassure the Gaullist RPR and Communist Parties, who have openly opposed direct election of the European Assembly and who are adversaries of any supra-national approach in the European Economic Community.

Under the Treaty of Rome, the assembly has "powers of deliberation and control." But its powers barely go beyond control of the EEC budget and the possibility of ousting the EEC Commission through a motion of no confidence.

Former Gaullist Premier Michel Debre has led off the attack against the direct election of the assembly, arguing that it could threaten France's sovereignty. However, observers believe he has failed to secure the full support of more than a minority among the 170 Gaullist RPR deputies.

As for the Communists, their parliamentary group yesterday called for "effective guarantees" to forestall any interference with French national sovereignty. Group leader Robert Ballanger said there must be an "absolute, clear and binding" guarantee that the European Assembly would have to abide "strictly by the letter of the Treaty of Rome."

The bill approved by the cabinet yesterday morning said France would regard any ex-

tension of the competence of the European Parliament as void "unless it has been approved according to the provisions of the Treaties of Paris and Rome and in conditions provided for by the (French) Constitution."

Commenting on the text, M. Lecat avoided speculating on whether it would be acceptable to M. Debre and his followers and to the Communists.

But observers predicted that the bill as it now stands, would be adopted by the National Assembly. If it is, France will be the second EEC country, after Italy, to complete the ratification of the agreement reached last Sept. 20, by foreign ministers of the nine, under which the first election by universal suffrage will be held throughout the EEC in a year's time.

Britain, France, West Germany and Italy will then each elect 81 members of the new 400-member assembly, the Netherlands 25, Belgium 24, Denmark 16, Ireland 15 and Luxembourg 6.

Yesterday's bill included provisions for the organisation of polling in France. M. Lecat said the government had adopted a proportional system based on national lists, with candidates polling the highest average vote nationwide being returned.

The government spokesman said this system would assure a fair representation in the European Assembly of all political groupings in France.

Arab Horse Races

Every Sunday at 3:30 p.m.
at the Royal Racing Club, Marka.
Admission 150 fils.

